

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0534

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, GH
SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS -- ASSESSMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND
BUDGET DEVELOPMENTS AT 32ND UNGA: GHANA'S VIEW

REF: (A) STATE 000207 (B) ACCRA 0132

1. ON JANUARY 19 POLOFF CALLED ON VICTOR GBEHO,
SUPERVISING DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
CONFERENCES DIVISION, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO
DISCUSS POINTS MADE REF A. GBEHO, WHO WAS ON GHANA'S
32ND UNGA DEL AND HAS HAD MUCH EXPOSURE TO UN MATTERS,
OFFERED FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. UN PROGRAM BUDGET. GBEHO TOOK ISSUE WITH OUR
BELIEF THAT A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF UN RESOURCES CONTINUE
TO BE CONSUMED BY LOW PRIORITY MARGINAL PROGRAMS.
HE NOTED THAT AGREEMENT IS DIFFICULT IN INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNITY SINCE COMMUNITY IS POLARIZED BETWEEN
RICH AND POOR NATIONS. LATTER SEE THESE PROGRAMS
AS IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND TO IMPROVE QUALITY
OF LIFE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. GBEHO SAW NO END TO LDC
DEMANDS FOR SUCH PROGRAMS UNTIL THEIR ECONOMIC POSITION
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IMPROVES SUBSTANTIALY. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THERE
IS "AN ELEMENT OF TRUTH" IN OUR VIEW THAT UN SPENDING
SHOULD BE RESTRAINED. HE CALLED FOR MORE OUT-OF-SESSION
TALKS BETWEEN RICH AND POOR NATIONS TO WORK OUT AGREEMENT
ON UN PROGRAMS.

3. UN FINANCIAL EMERGENCY. GBEHO WAS FAMILIAR WITH

PROBLEM BUT SAW NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTION. HE OBSERVED UN HAD SOUGHT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO COVER DEFICITS BUT MANY PLEDGES ARE NOW 10 YEARS OLD AND STILL UN-REDEEMED. HE SUGGESTED THAT UN SHOULD AGAIN STUDY QUESTION OF HOW FUNDS CAN BE RAISED.

4. UN SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS. HE AGREED WITH OUR EFFORT TO FIND A MORE EQUITABLE FORMULA FOR ASSESSMENTS. HE SAID OPEC COUNTRIES HAD RESISTED MOVES TO GET THEM TO PAY MORE, ARGUING THAT THEY NEED MONEY TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN ECONOMIES. GBEHO SAID GHANA WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS TO FIND A BETTER ASSESSMENT MECHANIS.

5. UN SALARIES. GBEHO AGREED UN SALARIES ARE TOO HIGH AND INDICATED GHANA WOULD WELCOME,SUGGESTIONS ON HOW

PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED. HE NOTED THAT A COLLEAGUE OF HIS, AMBASSADOR RICHARD AKWEI, HAS JUST BEEN NAMED VICE CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION AND AGREED WITH POLOFF'S SUGGESTION THAT USG OFFICIALS SHOULD CONTACT AKWEI ON THIS ISSUE.

6. UN RESTRUCTURING. GHANA SUPPORTS RESTRUCTURING EFFORTS. GBEHO NOTED HIS COUNTRY IS PUTTING FORWARD KENNETH K.S. DADZIE (REF B), WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF AD HOC CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF UN SYSTEM, FOR POST OF UN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

7. IMPRESSIONS OF 32ND UNGA. GBEHO SAID HE CONSIDERED GENERAL ASSEMBLY POLITICALLY SUCCESSFUL. GAP BETWEEN US AND USSR WAS NARROWED ON DISARMAMENT, ARMS LIMITATION AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. HE SAID THAT WHILE USSR HAS BEEN A "CHAMPION OF DISARMAMENT" THERE HAS NOT BEEN MUCH PROGRESS GETTING CHINA AND ALBANIA TO GO ALONG ON THIS ISSUE OR ON QUESTION OF NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. GBEHO BELIEVED THAT, ON BALANCE, POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY "AUGERED WELL FOR A MORE STABLE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY."

8. ON ECONOMIC FRONT, HE CONTINUED, DC/LDS POSITIONS ON NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO) HAVE BECOME MUCH CLOSER. THERE IS, HE SAID, AN "IDENTIFY OF VIEWS" ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE FOR ALL LDC'S. AN NIEO FRAMEWORK NOW EXISTS; ALL THAT IS LEFT IS TO HAMMER OUT THE

DETAILS. THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM IS REALLY NOT TO
ADVANTAGE OF EITHER DC'S OR LDC'S -- AN EQUITABLE
SYSTEM BASED ON COOPERATION WOULD BE MUCH BETTER FOR
BOTH SIDES, HE CONCLUDED.

9. U.S. TACTICS IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS. ASKED WHETHER
THE U.S. COMES ON STRONG IN MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, GBEHO
SAID THAT IN HIS EXPERIENCE OUR DEMARCHES WERE USUALLY
QUITE THOROUGH, INDEED "EXHAUSTIVE." HE FAULTS THEM
ONLY BECAUSE HE THINKS THEY STEM FROM SELF-INTEREST AND
OUR OWN DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS, RATHER THAN SPRINGING
FROM A MORE ALTRUISTIC CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. SMITH

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